

*15. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has conveyed to Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) that it would not grant more concessions and that negotiation list would not cut below 800 items in Indo-ASEAN n" A;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on the member country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) As no final agreement has been reached, the impact on member countries cannot be assessed.

Declining employment opportunities

†*16. MS. SUSHILATIRIYA:

SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided with employment during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that organized as well as unorganized sectors have registered decline in employment during the last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the specific measures being taken by Government in order to provide more employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

per these surveys, employment in the country on usual status basis has gone up from around 397.0 million in 1999-2000 to around 459.0 million in 2004-05.

While employment in the organised sector has declined from 27.96 million in March^ 2000 to 26.44 million in March 2004, employment in the unorganised sector is estimated to have increased from 369.0 million in 1999-2000 to 432.7 million in 2004-05.

Government is attempting employment generation in the normal growth process as well as through special employment generation programmes. The special programmes include Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana etc. Besides these, Government, is also implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the 200 identified districts of the country, which provides for at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas and whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. These measures will further enhance the employment opportunities available to the unemployed.

Need to use wasteland for setting up SEZs

*17. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmland is diverted for setting up of SEZs in the country;

(b) if so, does it not hamper the agriculture production in the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry for making it mandatory, by amending the Land Acquisition Act, if necessary, that SEZs should be developed only on wasteland and not on agriculture land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to formulate a regulatory mechanism to oversee the acquisition of land for SEZs in various States?